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THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 1917

Concerning the Prohibition Constitutional Amendment

Read What Mr. Hoover, and Mr. Curtis, of the Philadelphia Ledger, Say.

First, as to the wisdom of using the Constitution of the United States to please a small band of fanatics eager to have their way at any costs.

Congress is urged to change the Constitution to oblige the prohibitionists and give them, via the Constitution, leg-islation that they could get in the usual way, if the people

were willing.

Cyrus H. K. Curtis, owner of the Ladies' Home Journal and the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Saturday Evening Post and editor of the Philadeland the Philadela phia Ledger, is certainly no enemy of real temperance and no enemy of the prohibitionists. He has always been an earnest temperance worker.

In his newspaper, the Evening Public Ledger, he had

We have repeatedly pointed out in these columns that to prostitute the Constitution to purposes of legislation is to undermine the authority of that instrument and imperil thereby the stability of the Government. Prohibition is a policy, not a principle. The Constitu-tion has never been the vehicle for declarations of policy. Not even the Monroe doctrine has been incorporated into the fundamental law. To compel all the States to conform to the police regulations of a majority of the States would be to destroy local government, which, within the corpus of vast sovereignties, as well as in colonies, has

been found by human experience to be vital to contentment among citizens.

this to say on Tuesday last:

This statement in Mr. Curtis' paper covers the ground completely, as regards the use of the Constitution to oblige a

few fanatics that Congress fears and often obeys.

Every Congressman knows well that it is as outrageous to change the Constitution in order to coerce workingmen and oblige extremists as it would be to change that Constitution to regulate the price of coal or the distribution of po-tatoes. But nothing is sacred to the insistent gentlemen of the ice-water persuasion, who believe they should have the entire force of Government, with Congress as their servant,

and the Constitution of the United States as their plaything.

If Congressmen vote to change the Constitution of the United States in order to please the Anti-Saloon League, under threats of political blackmail, they are obeying a black-

mailing threat, and they know it.

As to the merit of the suggestion that absolute prohibi-tion should be fastened upon the country in wartime, that is well dealt with in the following brief statement from Mr. Hoover, in charge of the nation's food problem. Said Mr.

"Those who wish brewing entirely suppressed should bear in mind that if such a course were pursued THE COUN-TRY WOULD BE PLACED UPON A WHISKEY BASIS

That tells the story. If Congress allows the fanatics to have their way, the workers upon whom the nation depends for efficiency in war will be compelled to take whiskey or ice-water-they will have no choice between the two. It is well known that not all the workers will select ice-waterand there is plenty of whiskey.

There are still in existence and may be sold legally hun-

dreds of thousands of barrels of whiskey.

And there are more than twenty thousand criminals manufacturing whiskey secretly in the United States-thousands of them have been arrested during the past year by Government officials, and thousands remain undetected.

The whiskey now manufactured and ready for sale, the unlimited quantities of illicitly distilled whiskey that would be produced, if the manufacture of the harmless, mild stimulants were suddenly stopped, would flood the country with poison and with disaster.

There are a good many Democrats in the House of Rep-

resentatives that profess respect for Thomas Jefferson. He lived in the United States when the brewing of beer was practically unknown, when, as he said, "whiskey killed one-third of the people and ruined their families." He advocated the brewing of light beer because he knew-and history since his day has proved him right—that workingmen using light beer would be safe from drunkenness, whereas with whiskey they never could be safe.

He said in his famous letter to Charles Yancey:

"There is before the assembly (of Virginia) a petition of a Captain Miller, which I have at heart because I have great esteem for the petitioner as an honest and useful man. He is about to settle in our country and to establish a brewery, in which art I think him as skillful a man as has ever come to America. I WISH TO SEE THIS BEVERAGE (light beer) BECOME COMMON INSTEAD OF THE WHISKEY which kills one-third of our citisens and ruins their families. He is staying with me until he can fix himself, and I should be thankful for information from time to time of the progress of his petition."

There you have Jefferson's opinion of beer as compared with whiskey. It is hardly necessary to say what Jefferson would think of the proposition to make of the Constitution a legislative tool for fanatics and at the same time put the country upon a permanent whiskey basis by preventing the use of the light and harmless stimulants.

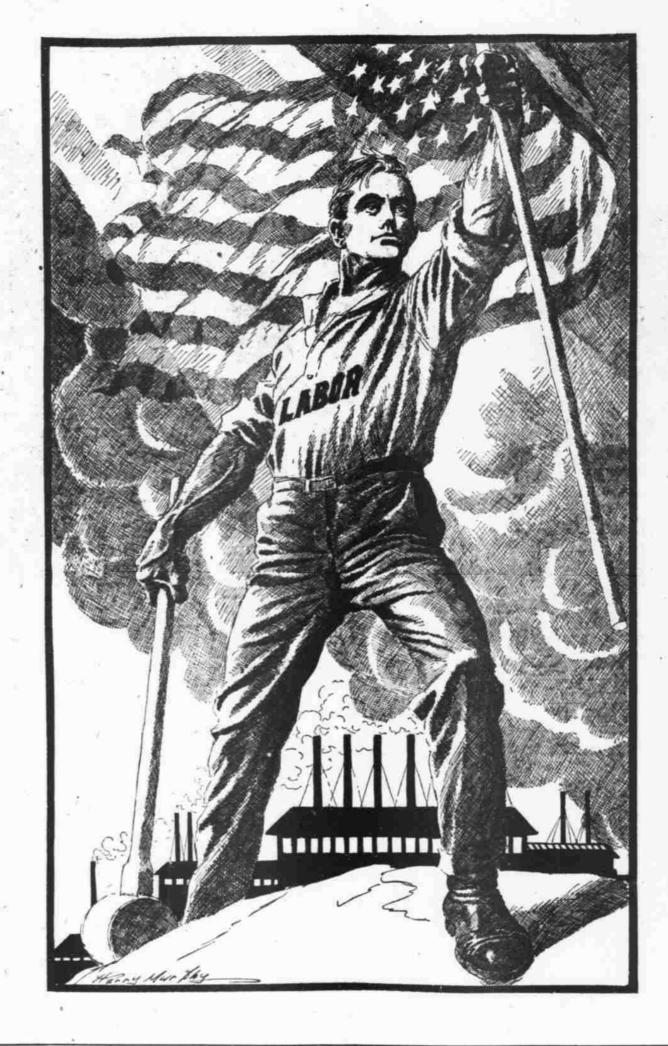
Jefferson denounced whiskey, and President Wilson has forbidden its future manufacture.

Jefferson praised as a friend of real temperance the light

beer that is taken without injury or drunkenness.

And the President of the United States has just issued a proclamation regulating the alcoholic content of beer, limiting it to two and three-quarters per cent of the total-in other (Continued in Last Column.)

Here Is THE Man



He is the worker that must win this war-fighting in Europe, working here. He is no slacker no drunkard, and does not need to be controlled by any group of Anti-Saloon League fanatics. He is for his country, has the right to

rule himself, live in his own way-and the Congressman that votes to coerce by Constitutional amendment, VOTES AGAINST AMERICAN SUCCESS IN THIS WAR. This is a free man, not the puppet of old women, male or female.

Mrs. Wilson Woodrow Writes on "The Second Chance"

O you want a second chance in life? What would you do with

it if you had it?

Suppose a tricksy, mischievous fairy named "Lob" should pick you out for his attentions; and it is

out for his attentions; and it is quite possible that he might, for, of course, since "Peter Pan," we all believe in fairies?

Suppose he should suddenly transport you to his enchanted island, and there, by his magic, have things so arranged that you could begin life all over again, say, at the age of twenty-one?

"To draw long dreams of hearts."

"To draw long dreams of beauty, love and power From founts of hope that never will outrun. And drink all life's quintessence

in an hour, Give me the days when I was twenty-one!"

And suppose you had that "sec-ond chance" under exactly identical conditions and circumstances to redeem that crowning folly, or wrong, or mistake to which you look back with such regret, and which you feel has materially dis-torted your destiny?

Wouldn't you regard that good fairy as a supreme benefactor, one who has granted you the greatest of all possible boons? Since the beginning of the world man has spent much of his time crying: "Oh, if I only had it to do over "Oh, if I only had it to do over again!" "Oh, if I could only be given a second chance!" Well, the Second Chance is the

theme that Burrie has taken for his

latest play, "Dear Brutus," now running in London; and he has used the fairy "Lob" and the enchanted island as the method by which to accomplish it for his characters.

Opinions differ about the merits

of the play. Some critics regard it as the greatest achievement of Barrie's peculiar genius, while others call it in imprehensible nonsense. To settle the question to our own satisfaction we shall have to wait for the production of "Dear Brutus" on this side of the

But the fact remains that Barrie has as usual hit upon a profound truth concerning human nature to embroider with his fancy; for of all those whom "Lob" carries off to the to the magic island none alters in any way his original experience. They make exactly the same errors over again, commit exactly the same follies in the second chance that they did in the first. The mismated couples choose once more the wrong matrimonial partners, and the thieves again show their bent for dishonesty. The author's theory is that our

mistakes and sins are due to some inherent quality in our individual characters and that so long as this remains unchanged our destines will continue unaltered.

Of course, in the dramatic form the theme is presented with all Mr. Barrie's exquisite fancy and deli-cious humor; but taken simply as a bald statement, it is rather dreary and depressing.

It is rather a favorite subject

with the imaginative writer. I remember a magazine story which I read some years ago of two men who were shipwrecked on a desert island. One had been a financial success, the head of a great corporation; the other, as he bitterly declared, his "industrial slave." Arriving on the island, however, their positions are reversed.

The subordinate by a ruse ob-tains possession of all the weapons and supplies which they have saved from the wreck and during sleep ties up his former employer, refus-ing to release him unless the latter agrees to work for him under con-ditions of virtual slavery. The corporation chief, compelled to assent or starve, enters into the agreement and faithfully keeps it for a year. But by the end of that time, through the exercise of those characteristics and talents which had previously advanced him and through the lack of these same qualities in the other man, there was a second shift in their relative positions. The moral is that a spe-cial aptitude will always express

itself under any conditions.

It is a sort of doctrine of "predestination" as applied to temporal affairs. We all have our different bent bents and ent bents, and the only way we can achieve success is by following those bents and trusting to them. The man on the desert island who usurped the authority was not a born executive. His tal-ents lay in a different direction. ents lay in a different direction. We are not forced like cattle in the stock yards to follow certain

set runways, but are free to roam

the range. If we go slam into a barbed wire fence or get ourselves bogged in the mire, that is largely due to our own heedless blundering. It is silly to blame it on

or run away from anything. The thing you have fled from will be the first one to greet you on the new ground. You have about as much chance as Little Daffydowndilly in Hawthorne's fable had of escaping old Schoolmaster Toll, for it will be remembered that everywhere Daffydowndilly went he discovered Toil in one shape or another, and when at last he returned in desperation to the school-house he found that the companion with whom he had been throughout his wanderings and whom he had supposed a fellow-truant was none other than Toil himself, and in his very grimmest guise.

If your lot seems bitter, then, and your destiny hard, just look over your own little garden patch and you'll probably discover what overshadowing weeds have prevent-ed your flowers from blooming. If your an't discover them yourself, there are always plenty of kind friends close at hand who will take pleasure in pointing out their ex-act location and giving you the full

act location and viving you the full botanical details.

Then there is only one thing to do. Weed the garden thoroughly. It isn't easy. Very few worthwhile things are easy. But it is certainly possible, and there you'll have the ground all prepared and have the ground all prepared and ready for your "second chance."

Something About Waste Motion

In Milk or Street Railways It's All' the Same,

By EARL GODWIN.

Two hundred members of the Wilson Normal Community Association have solved their milk problem by reducing distributing and handling costs. They live in the same neighborhood and one milk man will serve all of them. Furthermore, he will reduce his handling costs by serving

milk in quart bottles only.

The Community Association theory is that too many milk men are competing in the same territory, and that the milk distributing systems cross and recross each other in needless and expensive fashion. If the entire District of Columbia could be organized properly, milk could be dis-tributed in each neighborhood with neatness and dispatch and a lack of friction and at a minimum cost. All of which

would probably mean a saving to the consumer.

If we had one street railroad system in Washington we would not have to pay 10 cents to get from one part of the city to another as we do frequently. Some day we will have no friction in the food distributing systems and no senseless duplication of street car companies. There is no system which does so well as a PROPERLY regulated monopoly.

And no system is preventy regulated until the people it And no system is properly regulated until the people it serves have control.

If we had half a dozen companies distributing the United States mail all over the country, where would we be? The postoffice to my mind is a daily conspicuous example of the effectiveness and economy of Government ownership or Government control. Just as the Wilson Normal Community scheme for ridding its neighborhood of waste motion in the milk deliveries is a small example of the proper thing, the postoffice example is an enormous example of proper

Mail was once delivered by private contract. Who would go back to it? And who believes a private corporation would undertake to take a letter from here to San Francisco for 2 cents in peace time and 3 cents in war time? I can imagine a whole flock of hundred thousand dollar a year lawyers spending their entire time in Washington telling the Government how it couldn't possibly be done for less than

THOMAS G. BRADY says:

"It is not an uncommon thing to be told for one-half hour that the telephone is busy. I experienced this both yesterday and today at my own house, and was for more than thirty stops on that line above Dupont Cirminutes getting connections. It is cle. One of them is at Florida avenue and connecticut avenue, inasmuch as there is also a stop about a hundred feet south at Connecticut avenue and S street.

MISS NEALE BIGGS, who runs the news stand in the Riggs Building, asks me to say that recently poses to help in the high cost of the Bible class of Esther Memorial affidavits by acting as notary public Church at Congress Heights entertained in honor of CLARENCE E. cerning the draft. Mr. Pickering is WOLFE, who has led and taught in charge of the minority room of the class for a long time. The reception was held at the home of Mrs. V. Beyer, 507 Alabama avenue, and with the next draft can be done in the class gave Mr. Wolfe a fine gold front of "Pick" free of all costs.

HEARD AND SEEN
JUDGE JAMES PUGH ought to chain and gold cross.

Capitalize his face. He could make a million dollars with that smile and one.

Miss Biggs made the presentation speech, and I know it was a good one.

a moving picture camera.

Enter the telegraph messenger girl. YOUNG MR. DARR, the manager for the Postal Telegraph Company, in the Post building, tells me he expects to have two girls on duty today.

"I have noted with pleasure," says TUCKER K. SANDS, "the position you have taken both as to suffrage for the District and also the fight against the suggestion that wages of Government employes should be reduced."

THOMAS G. BRADY says:

"It is not an uncommon thing to be teld for enable for the thing to be teld for enable for the thing to be teld for enable for the base of the conduct of our Government as the high-minded citizenry in this District. This is inconsistent with American principle and unsound in detrine."

From the Public to the Editor

Music To Our Soul.

December 10, 1917. My Dear Mr. Brisbane:

I want to extend in the name of the committee and myself our cordial appreciation of the untiring kindness appreciation of the untiring kindness of The Times in helping along the great Song Day. If you were there you know how wonderful it was and that it was the start of a great new movement of patriotism. With very kind regards, very sincerely yours, MRS. GEORGE FRANCIS KERR,

> From a Sailor. Navy Department.

Director of Plans.

ates the city of Washington and ad-jacent territory. The District has in-stalled a number of fountains where the citizens, or rather realdents, and visitors can get a drink of insipid, luke-warm water on a hot summer day. day.

Cold water at the city drinking

Cold water at the city unmarked fountains in summer is thoroughly practicable, would fully justify the cost and I can think of no way in which you can more endear yourself to the people than by bringing about this aid to health, comfort, and hap-

pinces.

Kindly whisper a few words to the right party, Cap, in your usual quiet manner, and I believe you can turn the trick.

Then think of next summer: Tem

Navy Department,
Bureau of Navigation.

Captain Brisbane,
Editor Washington Times.
Dear Cap:

Permit me to take an oar in the civic-betterment boat you are so manfully piloting.

The Washington Terminal, a corporation child, operates the Union Station and adjacent yards. The Terminal Company has installed bubbling fountains in the station where the tired traveler can get a cold, refreshing drink on a hot summer day.

The District of Columbia, considered, I believe, by many learned generative a hundred plus, no ice in the cooler, your once famous neighbors. Shoomaker and Gerstenberg, gons but not forgotten; what a pleasure for your content and invite him to ascompany you to the fountain across from your shop for a cold drink. In time we might even induce the mear the source of the water supply so that every home, rich and curing the hot summer months.

Think it over, anyhow. Cap: you are a man after my own heart and I wish you every success.

Sincerely, JOHN W. KEAN,

Concerning the Prohibition Constitu-

tional Amendment. (Continued from First Column.) words, permitting only the brewing of a temperance drink that will contain more than THIRTY PARTS of pure water

to ONE part of alcohol-a drink that a child could take without injury, but one that will keep workmen contented and prevent the feeling of dissatisfaction that enforced ice-water. modified by illicit whiskey, would inflict upon the country. .

Will the House of Representatives decide to overrule the President, make a joke of the Constitution, which they have sworn to respect, disregard the wise preaching of Jeffersonand all to oblige the sincere but ignorant, misguided, and opinionated fanatics, that use political blackmail as their